Revision of Levy Sugar Policy

158. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proopse to revise the policy of levy sugar; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to divide Maharashtra into three zones instead of two recovery zones and make suitable adjusmtent for repayment of loans by Sahkari Sakhar Karkhanas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Progress made on conversion of Manmad-Aurangabad Parli Baijnath Railway Line

159. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made on conversion of Manmad-Aurangabad Parli Baiznath railway line upto Adilabad railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): The progress of construction on the gauge conversion projects in Marathwada as on 30-6-1991 is as under:—

Name of the project	Progress
(1) Manmad-Parbhani Parli Vaijanath (work is in progress only on Mahmad-Aurangabad Section-114 kms.)	77.40%
(2) Conversion of Parbhani Purna-Mudkhed-Adilabad MG into BG and laying a parallel BG line from Purna and Mudkhed	17%

Progress in the construction of Beed Ahmadnagar Parli Line

160. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made in the construction of Beed Ahmednagar Parli new railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): This is not an approved work.

Progress made in the conversion of Miraj Latur Line

161. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made in the conversion of Miraj Latur narrow gauge into broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): This is not an approved work.

Bonded Labour

162. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bonded labour are an exploited lot;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the number of bonded labour is increasing year after year; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard to mitigate their sufferings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) Bonded Labour is one of the social evils and stands abolished under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Since the start of the implementation of the Act 2,55,608 bonded labour have been identified and 2,22,935 have been rehabilitated. The Act envisages that the liability to repay bonded

debt shall stand extinguished; the property of bonded labour will be freed from mortgage; and freed bonded labourers are not to be evicted from homesteads. The State Government is responsible for the implementation of the provisions of the Act and any contravention of this Act is punishable with imprisonment and also a line. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Labour in 1978-79 under which the State Governments are provided Central financial assistance on matching grant (50:50) basis for the rehabilitation of bonded labourers. The Scheme envisages provision of rehabilitation grant upto a ceiling limit of Rs. 4,000/- per bonded labourer (raised to Rs. 6,250 w.e.f. 1-2-1986) half of which is given as Central share. So far, a sum of Rs. 3514.06 lakhs has been released to them as Central share of assistance.

Expenditure on Flood Control

163. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite increase in expenditure on flood control, the damage due to floods has been increasing every year;

(b) if so, the break-up of the expenditure on flood control during 1988-89 and 1990-91 and the extent of damage caused due to floods; and

(c) whether Government propose to take some concrete steps to check damage due to floods and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) A Statement is attached.

Statement

(a) Increase in damage due to floods:—

Despite increase in expenditure on flood control, the damage due to floods has been increasing every year mainly due to the following factors:—

(i) Overall rise in prices.

(ii) Increasing encroachment of the flood plains due to population pressure and developmental activities by private and public investments.

(iii) Increase in the agricultural productivity.

(iv) Ad-hoc reporting and estimation of the losses by State Governments.

(v) Non-implementation of recommendations of Rashtriya Barh Ayog on flood plain zoning by the States.

(vi) Frequent damage to flood management works due to inadequate maintenance by States.

(b) Details of Expenditure and damage:

Details of Expenditure on Flood Control and the extent of damage caused due to floods during the years 1988-89 to 1990-91 are as under:—

Year	Expenditure on Flood Control (Rs. in crores)	Damage due to flood (Rs. in crores)
1988-89	211.31	4630
1989-90	205.77	2405
1990-91	210.15 (Anticipated)	1708

(c) Details of Comprehensive Measures for Flood Control & Management:—

The Government of India set up Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) in April, 1972 for formulating comprehensive plans of flood control for rivers of the Ganga Basin. The GFCC has completed comprehensive plans for 23 sub-basins.

For tackling the problem of flood in Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys the Government of India constituted the Brahmaputra Board in December, 1981 charging it with the responsibility of Survey, investigation and preparation of Master Plans for control of floods in Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys and